

## EDUCATION

One of the most important resources of Placer County is its strong educational system. Through a network of public and private schools, the region benefits from a well-educated community and labor force. Local institutions offer programs for most undergraduate and graduate degrees, and several institutions specialize in services to assist the business community.

This section covers primary and secondary education, higher education, community colleges, public universities, private schools, technical schools, and vocational training.

### PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Figure 34 shows public school enrollment in school years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 for Placer County's largest school districts and for the Greater Sacramento Area. Rocklin Unified, followed by the Dry Creek Joint Elementary and Roseville City Elementary school districts are the fastest growing school districts in Placer County. Only Tahoe-Truckee Joint Unified School District lost student enrollment within that same time period.

**FIGURE 34**  
**PUBLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENT GRADE K THROUGH 12**

Area	Number of Students Enrolled K-12 1999-00	2000-01	Percent Change 1999/01-2000/01
Greater Sacramento Area	356,155	364,834	2.4%
Largest Districts			
Dry Creek Joint Elementary	5,173	5,412	4.6%
Eureka Union Elementary	3,918	4,028	2.8%
Placer Union High	4,700	4,781	1.7%
Rocklin Unified	6,878	7,426	8.0%
Roseville City Elementary	5,839	6,093	4.4%
Roseville Joint Union High	6,844	7,115	4.0%
Tahoe-Truckee Joint Unified	5,367	5,094	-5.1%
Western Placer Unified	6,097	6,208	1.8%

Prepared by Sacramento Regional Research Institute  
Source: California Department of Education, Education Planning and Information Center, *Enrollment in California Public Schools by County and Grade, 1999-00 & 2000-01*

Figure 35 shows 2000 SAT scores for school districts within Placer County, the Greater Sacramento Area and California. Placer County's commitment to quality education results in consistently high levels of accomplishment for area students. The region's students have regularly outscored or performed similar to California students as a whole on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). The average math score for public school students in Placer County was 532 for the 1999-2000 school year. The average verbal score for Placer County students was 522, 30 points above the California average and 16 points above the Greater Sacramento Area average.

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**FIGURE 35**  
**AVERAGE VERBAL AND MATH SCHOLASTIC ASSESSMENT**  
**TEST (SAT) SCORES FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS**  
**SCHOOL YEAR 1999-2000**

Area/School District	Number Tested	Percent Tested	Average Verbal Score	Average Math Score
Placer County	1,363	36%	522	532
Placer Union High	404	39%	528	538
Rocklin Unified	175	48%	516	527
Roseville Joint Union Unified	566	38%	518	533
Tahoe-Truckee Joint Unified	167	48%	521	532
Western Placer Unified	51	10%	528	490
Greater Sacramento Area	7,337	32%	506	524
California	126,786	36%	492	517

Prepared by Sacramento Regional Research Institute

Source: California Department of Education, Education Planning and Information Center,  
*SAT-I (Recentered) Report 1999-2000.*

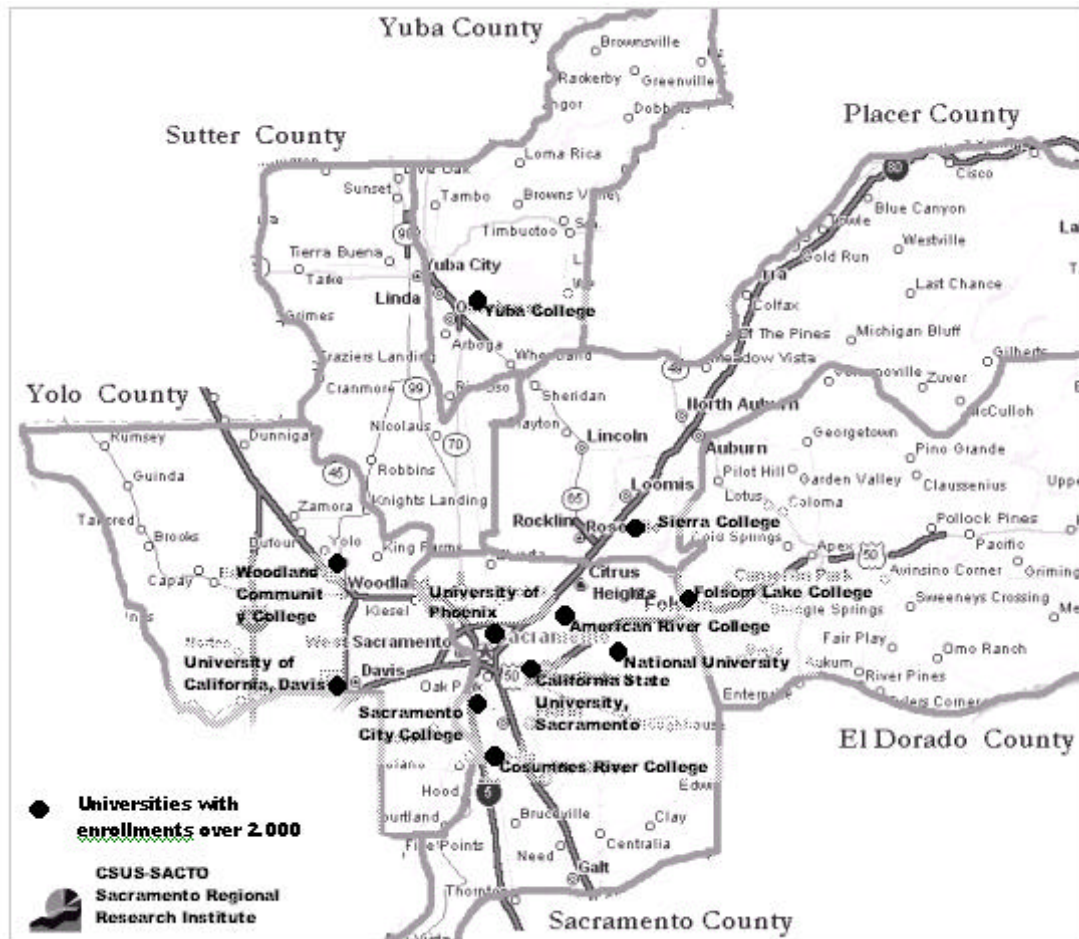
### HIGHER EDUCATION

Higher education is available from a variety of institutions throughout the area. In addition to University of California, Davis (UCD) and California State University, Sacramento (CSUS), five community colleges, numerous vocational schools, professional schools, and local campuses of colleges headquartered elsewhere in the state provide for the educational needs of local business and the community. Within a three-hour distance from Placer County, the University of California, Berkeley and Stanford University provide an accessible supply of well-educated graduates. Map 2 presents selected academic institutions in the immediate Sacramento area.

This variety of higher education has been a strong attraction of the region, especially for knowledge and information intensive industries like electronics and biotechnology. With a local education network to tap, firms such as NEC and Hewlett-Packard have been able to recruit employees within the area and, in conjunction with local colleges, design specific courses to the companies' requirements.

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**MAP 2**  
**UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES IN THE IMMEDIATE SACRAMENTO AREA**



### COMMUNITY COLLEGES

For over half a century, the 240-acre Sierra College has offered general education and technical courses. The main campus is off I80 in Rocklin. Other facilities include a 105-acre Sierra Nevada County Campus in Grass Valley and a center in Roseville. These campuses offer day, evening, and weekend classes and are administered by the Sierra Community College District. Sierra has a national reputation based on excellence in such academic areas as computer science, mathematics, computer integrated electronics, nursing, and early childhood education. Sierra offers Associate of Arts and Associate in Science degrees, along with technical training and certificates in over 70 areas and career fields. In addition, Sierra College offers the first two years of pre-professional programs including Medicine, Law, Engineering, Computer Science, Education, and Business Administration.

Sierra College was one of 76 schools in the nation chosen to participate in IBM's Higher Education Alliance Program. The program assists students in learning computer-aided design, electronics and manufacturing.

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To benefit area firms, Sierra College offers assistance through their Small Business Assistance Center (SBAC) and the Center for Applied Competitive Technologies. CACT specializes in combining computer-aided design and manufacturing to supply training and instruction to businesses in this particular industry. The college also provides on-site training and retraining to industry through its Contract Education Program.

The Los Rios Community College District has over 70,000 students enrolled at American River College, Cosumnes River College, Sacramento City College, Cosumnes River Education Center in Placerville, Folsom Lake Center in Folsom and El Dorado Center in Placerville. Los Rios is one of the fastest growing community college districts in the state and is ranked second in the state for transferring students to the University of California and the California State University systems. The Los Rios colleges also offer more than 76 career education programs including such high growth career fields as nursing and health, computer information science, hazardous materials management biotechnology, electronics, and business. The district also operates The Training Source, a division that provides custom-designed training in such areas as electronics, computer science, supervision management, and total quality management, as well as the Greater Sacramento Small Business Development Center and the Center for International Trade Development.

Yuba Community College District has been providing residents of Yuba and Sutter counties with quality education for almost 75 years. Yuba College's main campus is located in Marysville, with campuses in Woodland (Woodland Community College) and Lake County, and centers in Colusa and on Beale Air Force Base. Yuba College is geographically the second largest community college district in the state. Its enrollment has grown to over 10,000 students throughout the sprawling 4,192 square mile district. Yuba College students who transfer to the University of California system and the California State University system have a higher G.P.A. than the average transfer student. The facility is among the finest in the state for lower division college course work.

### **PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES**

The Greater Sacramento Area has two major public universities -- California State University, Sacramento (CSUS) and University of California, Davis (UCD).

#### **California State University, Sacramento**

California State University, Sacramento - which was the site of the U.S. Olympic track and field trials in July 2000 and is located only five miles from California's capitol -- is a major university in the state and the nation. Founded in 1947, the University has completed over one-half century of service. Approximately 26,000 students are enrolled at CSUS, and more than 70 nations are represented. CSUS academic programs are organized into seven schools: Arts & Letters, Business Administration, Engineering & Computer Sciences, Health & Human Services, Education, Mathematics, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, and Interdisciplinary Studies. CSUS students earn degrees in more than 60 undergraduate degree programs and 40 graduate programs. The university is continuing an ambitious expansion and remodeling of facilities, which has brought more than one million square feet of new classroom and laboratory space. A carefully structured Strategic Plan is in place to help the campus enter the 21<sup>st</sup> century as a regional leader in higher education and economic development.

The business administration major is the largest undergraduate and teacher education is the largest graduate program at CSUS. Computer science, engineering, economics, biological

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sciences, and communication studies also draw large numbers of students. Programs which specialize in graduate education include business, education, and public policy and administration.

More than 30 research and service centers are associated with the university. In addition, CSUS has focused on extension and continuing education programs to accommodate the business community's changing needs. The continuing education curriculum includes computer science, business management, marketing, and accounting courses.

### **University of California, Davis**

When the University Farm opened its gates in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, it consisted of 778 acres of rich agricultural land. Today, nearly a century later, the University of California, Davis (UC Davis) campus has grown to more than 5,000 acres, dozens of buildings, house laboratories, performance spaces, classrooms and libraries. The 26,000 students study under the guidance of scores of faculty whose expertise ranges from molecular biology to modern dance. An acknowledged international leader in agricultural, biological, biotechnological and environmental sciences, UC Davis is gaining similar recognition for excellence in the arts, humanities, social sciences, health sciences, law, and management. Ranked No. 10 among the top public universities nationally by U. S. News & World Report, the campus is one of only 63 members of the prestigious Association of American Universities, whose members are selected by invitation only. UC Davis offers 110 undergraduate majors and 70 graduate programs in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Letters and Science, and Engineering and four professional schools: Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Law and Management. Over the next ten years, the campus will grow both in enrollment and in new facilities totaling about \$1 billion, including laboratories, classrooms, and student facilities. The UC Davis Center for the Arts, scheduled to open in 2002, will house an 1,800-seat state of the art performance hall and a 250-seat studio theater and will provide performance space unrivalled outside the San Francisco Bay Area.

UC Davis Extension offers over 3,500 courses for more than 80,000 students each year. Course offerings include traditional classroom courses open to the public – many of them are offered in Sacramento – as well as online courses and customized on-site training for employers.

The UC Davis Health System includes a 528-bed teaching hospital in Sacramento, a medical school and a network of primary care physician practices and affiliated community hospitals in Northern California communities. The system operates the region's only Level 1 trauma center, a comprehensive cancer center, a children's hospital, transplant services, an Alzheimer's center, an institute for neurodevelopmental disorders, and a burn center.

### **PRIVATE SCHOOLS**

Numerous branches of private colleges headquartered outside the Greater Sacramento Area support the region. National University primarily serves working adults with its intensive one course per month evening format in management, technology, psychology, and education. The university has approximately 1,100 students in Sacramento.

Smaller institutions include the University of San Francisco, which offers programs in organizational studies, public administration, health services administration, and counseling.

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The University of Southern California's Sacramento Center for the School of Policy, Planning, and Development has been offering nationally accredited Master degrees for over 25 years. It offers degrees in public administration, health administration and planning and development studies. Classes are taught in seminars with 10-20 students.

Golden Gate University, founded in 1853, is the fourth largest private university in California. The Sacramento campus offers undergraduate and graduate programs in business, technology, taxation, public administration and healthcare management. The 1,500 working adult student population enjoys convenient, skill-building classes.

Bachelor's and Master degrees, as well as teaching credentials and extended education, are offered by Chapman University. This liberal arts university has approximately 700 enrollments per term in the Sacramento Valley.

McGeorge School of Law of the University of the Pacific is a recognized leader in the field of legal education. McGeorge seeks to educate practice-ready graduates through its required curriculum and opportunities for practical experience in clinical and internship settings. A specialized curriculum at McGeorge leads to a Certificate in Governmental Affairs awarded concurrently with the Juris Doctorate degree.

Also located nearby is Lincoln Law School of Sacramento. Lincoln Law School is fully accredited by the Committee of Bar Examiners of the State Bar of California and serves about 270 students.

Bachelor and Master degrees, and other programs of higher education are offered through several private schools, some of which are mentioned above. A partial list of these institutions appears below:

- Chapman University
- Golden Gate University
- Lincoln Law School
- McGeorge School of Law
- National University
- University of Phoenix
- University of San Francisco
- University of Southern California

## TECHNICAL SCHOOLS AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING

In addition to the comprehensive instruction given at area community colleges specific technical training is available at more than 100 trade and vocational schools in the Greater Sacramento Area. The Sacramento County Office of Education operates Regional Occupational Programs that regularly train high school students and adults for careers as electronic technicians, computer programmers, woodworkers, welders, automotive technicians, metal workers and graphic arts personnel. Traditional vocational school programs include computer operations and programming, accounting, secretarial, medical office, legal office and electronics. Also, many vocational schools are approved to offer both diplomas and degree programs.

The best known schools offering vocational education are the Heald Business Colleges; ITT Technical Institute, which offers Associate of Science and Bachelor of Science degrees, MTI College of Business Technology and Western Career College.